

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00436 160011Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-04
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FM USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, EGEN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S)

REF: (A) STATE 26496 (B) USUN 272 (C) USUN 295

1. SUMMARY. COMMITTEE ON NGO'S MET IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 7-11. SOVIET REP, AIDED AND ABETTED BY CUBA AND PASSIVELY SUPPORTED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ENGAGED IN HEAVY-HANDED AND ARBITRARY OBSTRUCTION OF CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL NGO APPLICATIONS. ONLY 23 (INCLUDING 10 OF 14 US-BASED ORGANIZATIONS) OF 44 APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED, WITH DECISION ON OTHERS DEFERRED TO AN AS YET UNDETERMINED DATE. ACTION ON OTHER AGENDA ITEMS (INCLUDING REVIEW OF NGO'S CURRENTLY IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS), WAS POSTPONED TO RESUMED SESSION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 7-8, 11. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMITTEE ON NGO'S MET IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 7-11. SWEDISH AMB TO NGO'S (DAHLEN) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN; IRAQI AND TUNISIAN ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN AND RAPPOREUR
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00436 160011Z

RESPECTIVELY. COMMITTEE ADOPTED CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE.

3. SOVIET REP, ARGUING THAT LATE RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTATION LEFT HIM WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, SOUGHT TO HAVE ALL DECISIONS ON INDIVIDUAL NGO APPLICATIONS DEFERRED AND TO QUICKLY MOVE MEETING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE

AGENDA ITEM DEALING WITH THE REVIEW OF NGO'S CURRENTLY IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS (REF (C), PARA 2(B)). HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET EFFORT, AIDED AND ABETTED BY CUBA AND PASSIVELY SUPPORTED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BACKFIRED AND RESULTED IN GENERAL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS. SOVIET REP THEN RESORTED TO VETO OF VIRTUALLY EVERY APPLICATION. CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS OVER FIVE-DAY PERIOD ULTIMATELY RESULTED IN APPROVAL OF 23 OF 44 APPLICATIONS. TEN OF 14 US-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WERE APPROVED. (RESULTS OF ABA APPLICATION REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

4. COMMITTEE GAVE CONSIDERATION TO THE INNOCUOUS SECRETARIAT-PROPOSED REVISION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NGO'S SEEKING CONSULTATIVE STATUS. CUBANS AND SOVIETS SOUGHT TO HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ADDED TO CLARIFY NGO VIEWS ON SPECIFIC POLITICAL ISSUES AND UN RESOLUTIONS. US REP WITH GENERAL WEO SUPPORT ARGUED THAT QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THE TERMS OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1296, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE CRITERIA FOR NGO CONSULTATIVE STATUS. IRAQ AND SEVERAL OTHER G-77 DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BUT INFORMALLY AGREED TO VERY GENERAL LANGUAGE BASED ON SUPPORT FOR UN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH US WAS ALSO PREPARED TO SUPPORT. SOVIETS/CUBANS CONTINUED TO INSIST ON MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND ENTIRE MATTER WAS DEFERRED TO RESUMED SESSION.

5. RESUMED SESSION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 7-8 AND 11
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PAGE 03 USUN N 00436 160011Z

WILL AGAIN TAKE UP QUESTIONNAIRE AND REVIEW PROCESS. IT WILL NOT CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS BUT WILL ESTABLISH DATE FOR SUCH CONSIDERATION.

6. COMMENT: CLUMSY, UNREASONABLE FASHION IN WHICH SOVIET REP OBSTRUCTED WORK OF COMMITTEE LEFT EVEN THE IRAQI REP VISIBLY ANNOYED. SITUATION WAS NOT HELPED BY THE GENERALLY POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN. ALTHOUGH WE SUCCEEDED IN AVOIDING ANY SETBACK IN OUR GENERAL INTEREST OF PROMOTING NGO PARTICIPATION, THE CRUCIAL ISSUES OF CRITERIA FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND FOR REVIEW WERE NOT RESOLVED BUT MERELY DEFERRED TO THE APRIL SESSION.
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